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ANNOUNCING ARBOR DAY GRANT PROGRAM ~ 2006

The Idaho Department of Lands, Avista Utilities, Idaho Power and Utah Power are happy to announce the **2006 Grant Program to promote the observance of Arbor Day in Idaho**. For the fourth year, we have joined together to help encourage an appreciation for healthy, community forests through this grant program.

Arbor Day is a celebration of trees and the many benefits they provide. Through our combined efforts we are proud to offer grants to communities celebrating Arbor Day and assist your community in managing its urban forest and assure that appropriate tree species are planted near power lines and facilities. Sharing the important role of managing your community's trees, together we can help assure the proper tree is always selected when planting near utility lines and that trees are cared for throughout the community. As sponsors, we strongly believe that education regarding trees and their care is a top priority in the prevention of tree/utility conflicts. It is our hope these grants will provide an opportunity for communities to celebrate the importance of trees through tree planting and other tree related educational activities at their Arbor Day event.

This year 70 grants of \$150 each are available to support Arbor Day celebrations in Idaho's communities. These funds come from the Idaho Community Forestry Trust Account supported by contributions from Utah Power, Idaho Power and Avista Utilities. The grant funds may be used to purchase trees, refreshments, Arbor Day T-shirts, handouts, or other items to enhance the Arbor Day celebration in your community.

Applications for the grants must be on file in the Coeur d'Alene office of the Idaho Department of Lands by 4:30 p.m. on March 17, 2006. They may be delivered in person, mailed or faxed. Because the time frame for this program is so tight, please make sure the application is clearly and completely filled out. Unclear or incomplete applications will not be accepted. All application materials are also available at the Community Forestry web page: www.idaho.gov/lands (click on community forestry). All grant applicants will be notified the week of March 20th.

This is a reimbursement grant, which means that the grantee cities must submit copies of paid invoices, with check numbers, in the amount of \$150 to receive payment for the grant. Additionally, a match of 35% (\$52.50) in cash or in-kind donation is also required by the grantee. Records to substantiate this match (over and above the \$150 grant amount) must be kept on file. The match records will be requested from five grantees randomly selected by the Idaho Department of Lands.

Idaho joins most other states in celebrating Arbor Day on Friday, April 28, 2006. However, trees and planting conditions don't honor calendars—your community may choose to celebrate Arbor Day on a different date.



We encourage your city to apply and to have a memorable ARBOR DAY celebration.